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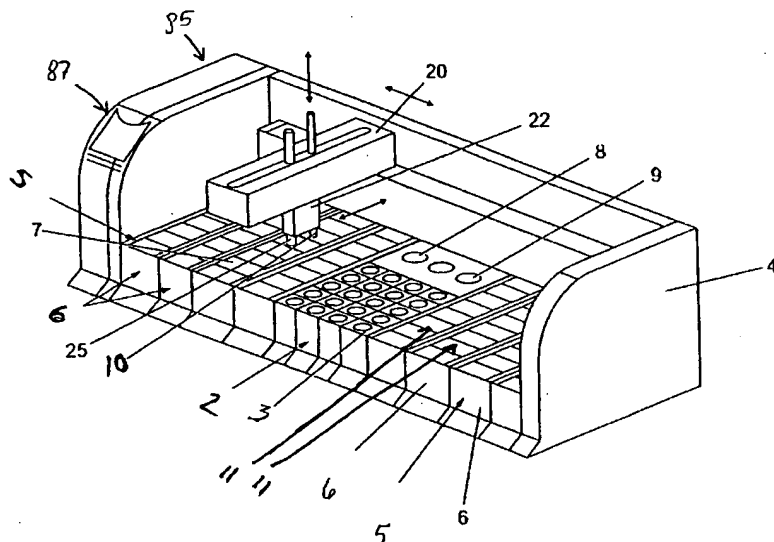
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATED PROCESSING BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES



(57) Abstract: The present invention concerns an apparatus (1) for automatic processing at least one biological sample accommodated on a carrier member, such as a slide by (7) applying a predetermined amount of reagents in a predetermined sequence according to a processing protocol, said apparatus (1) comprising; a housing frame (4); at least one processing section for accommodating at least one slide (7), wherein the at least one processing section is provided within the housing (4); a hood cover protecting the at least one processing section in said housing (4); wherein the hood cover (40) completely encloses the processing section defining an interior space (120); and wherein the apparatus (1) further comprises climate control device (121) provided to control the environment within the interior space (120).

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SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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US CL : 702/22

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 702/22, 19-32, 130, 132-136, 138, 140; 700/266, 276-278; 236/91A, 91C, 92R; 62/121, 171, 304; 435/46, 49, 50

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US03/40520

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

USPAT, DERWENT, JPO, EPO, IBM, TDB

search terms: (process processing) biological sample, climate control, environmental control, air condition, sensor inlet outlet valve, hood, cover, high humidity, low humidity, prevent drying, microbial, discoloring, reagent, neutral gas, oxygen, carbon dioxide, nitrogen, formamide